

**East Chicago Lead Water Sampling Notification**  
**Caller Script –**  
**EPA Harmonized Version 12/8/16 5:40 p.m. CK**

Hi, this is [NAME] from the EPA. I'm calling with the (before and/or after) results from the drinking water tests taken at your home on (DATE/ before and/or after excavation).

EPA did these tests on a pilot basis at the first 45 homes that were excavated in zones 2 and 3. Like many older cities, East Chicago has a large percentage of service lines made of lead. It is likely that all or part of your home's service line as well as your plumbing is made of – or contains – lead. Street and construction work can sometimes disturb the service lines that carry water from the mains in the street into the home and there is chance that small particles of lead can break off and get into drinking water. We don't have enough information right now to make a conclusion about whether excavation is actually impacting lead levels in your home's drinking water.

However, we do have preliminary and/or final results for the water tested from your home. These preliminary results (before and/or after excavation) show that your highest lead levels are at XXX parts per billion. EPA's action level for lead in drinking water is 15 parts per billion. EPA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention agree there is no safe level of lead exposure, especially for children. When final results for your home are available, EPA will follow up with you by phone and with a letter.

The sampling that was conducted at your home is different from and more detailed than the sampling that is conducted to determine compliance with federal and state rules for lead in drinking water. East Chicago was not required to conduct the type of sampling conducted by EPA. On a national level, EPA is reviewing the existing rules relating to lead and copper in drinking water, including rules related to sampling. In East Chicago, EPA is working with IDEM and the City to implement solutions to reduce your exposure to lead.

As part of the pilot project, EPA installed a filter on your kitchen tap and EPA recommends that you continue to use the filtered tap as your source of drinking water (including water for cooking and tooth brushing) until further notice. Filter cartridges should be replaced regularly, and aerators should be cleaned on a weekly basis. Unfiltered tap water can be used to wash dishes, clothes, and to clean homes. It can also be used for showers and children's baths.

EPA has notified the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and the city about the results from EPA's pilot project. IDEM has been working with the city to ensure that corrosion control treatment is being introduced into the water at a high enough level to increase the coating of the lines and reduce lead levels in your home. The city currently meets all applicable federal and state rules on lead and copper in drinking water.

From 1 P.M. to 4 P.M. on Saturday, December 10, EPA will be hosting an open house in East Chicago at Carrie Gosch School Cafetorium to discuss the excavation activities at the USS Lead site and if you have any questions about the cleanup, soil sampling, the pilot study or your results please consider attending. Representatives from EPA, IDEM and the city will be available.

If you have more questions about EPA's sampling at your home, please call EPA's Water Division at 312-886-3473.